NATIONAL LIBRARY of MEDICINE

NEWS

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Message from the Director

Nineteen seventy-nine was a special year in our history. It marked the centenary of *Index Medicus* and also the completion of the construction of the Lister Hill Center building. The Center's specialized computer and communications laboratories, conference facilities, and audiovisual capabilities will allow the Library to develop new communications systems for the benefit of the entire health community. The new building will be formally dedicated on May 22, 1980.

Another significant event in 1979 was the beginning of planning for MEDLARS III. This is the comprehensive automation program that will serve the Library's operational and service requirements for the 1980s. The new system is intended to improve, extend, and integrate both our internal operations (such as technical processing of books and journals) and our external network responsibilities. In this latter category, MEDLARS III will provide new capabilities to assist the nation's health-science libraries in the creation of bibliographic records, retrieval of bibliographic and text information, access to national holdings and location information, and ordering and delivery of documents.

Use of the nationwide MEDLARS network continues to expand. Over 1.4 million online and offline searches were performed in 1979, a remarkable increase of almost 30 percent over last year.

The number of institutions in the U.S. that belong to the MEDLARS network rose to over 1000. The attempts by NLM and the Regional Medical Libraries to increase the number of hospitals in the network have met with some success: over 350 are now members. This year we welcomed a new foreign MEDLARS partner in Rome, Italy.

I am pleased that in 1979, for the first time in many years, the Board of Regents has its full complement of ten appointed members. As we enter a new decade with its promise of new communications programs and services, and with the great potential offered us by the new Lister Hill Center facility, we will need as never before the experience and counsel of the Regents.

I would like to thank the NLM staff for the continuing excellence of their work and their dedication to the mission of the Library. To them, to *NLM News* readers, and to friends everywhere of the National Library of Medicine, best wishes for the holiday season and the coming year.

Martin M. Cummings, M.D.

NLM Funds Study of Future Library Role

The National Library of Medicine has recently awarded a contract to the Association of American Medical Colleges to set forth guiding principles about the function, structure and financing of academic health science libraries in order to assist library administrators, institution officials in health education and research, and federal agency personnel in planning and implementing future policies and programs. The focus of the examination of these issues will be on the anticipated changes in health science education, research and practice and their

(continued on p. 2)

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(continued from p. 1)

impact on the role of the library and library services.

The approach will be through a study group of experts who will review and synthesize existing work and ideas and who will bring to bear on the problem an interaction of their own thoughts and expertise. They will attempt to enumerate the general principles that would characterize a system to transfer necessary information to the physician and from the physician to the patient.

This study will update and expand upon two important studies published over a decade ago under NLM and AAMC sponsorship. The first dealt principally with matters of organization, personnel, and financing of medical school libraries, and acquisition and use of library materials. The second study dealt with the role of the health sciences library in educating health professionals.

Dr. Marjorie P. Wilson, the Director of the Department of Institutional Development of the AAMC, will serve as principal investigator for this project.

Regional Medical Library Shift

The University of Illinois at the Medical Center (Chicago) has been awarded a contract by NLM to serve as the Regional Medical Library for Region VII. The Midwest Health Science Library Network, as the service is known, comprises Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, North Dakota, and Wisconsin. The award was made on the basis of competitive proposals received from the University of Illinois and the John Crerar Library.

Regional services will be provided by the University of Illinois at the Medical Center beginning January 1, 1980. **Irwin Pizer** will be the RML director and **Ruby May** the associate director. Ms. May filled a similar position at the RML when it was at the John Crerar Library.

The new Regional Medical Library office is at 1750 West Polk St., Chicago, Illinois 60612 (for correspondence use P.O. Box 7509, Chicago, Illinois 60680). Telephone: 312-996-2464.

The John Crerar Library had served as the RML since 1968, the fourth of the eleven RMLs to be designated. Under its able leadership, information services were coordinated for the more than 1800 institutions in the Region. The Midwest Health Science Library Network has also been in the forefront of the movement to create consortia—almost 50 having been developed to serve over 500 member institutions. The John Crerar Library will function as a resource library under the new contract.

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Two other contracts for RMLs will be signed shortly: with the Countway Library of Medicine (Region I) and with the University of Washington Health Sciences Library (Region X). Although these contracts were open to competition, no competing proposals were received from either Region.

Grants Brochure Available

A newly revised brochure, describing the six types of grant support available from the Library, is available on request to NLM. The brochure provides basic information on grants in such areas as resource improvement, resource projects, training, special scientific projects, publications, and research, development and demonstration. Anyone interested in learning more about these grant programs may obtain a copy of the new brochure by sending a self-addressed mailing label to:

Office of Extramural Programs
ATTN: Grants Brochure
National Library of Medicine
Bethesda, MD 20209

Publications Notes

● **Publications Supplement**. The January 1980 issue of the *News* will include a supplement containing comprehensive information on the Library's publications. The supplement will contain guidelines and specific ordering information for NLM publications sold by the U.S. Government Printing Office and the National Technical Information Service. It will also contain information on the Library's gratis brochures and fact sheets, on Recurring Bibliographies sponsored by cooperating organizations, and how to claim publications ordered from the Government Printing Office.

● **Cumulated Index Medicus**. The Government Printing Office has announced a price of $160 ($200 foreign) for the 1979 CIM—the Library's annual compilation of citations to journal articles and chapters in selected monographs. The fourteen-volume set, *scheduled to appear by April 1980*, may now be ordered by sending payment to the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. Since the price is the same as that for the 1978 CIM, be sure to specify that you are making an advance order for the *1979* edition of *Cumulated Index Medicus* (Volume 20), and include the following Stock Number: *017-052-00204-0. (An advance order form will be printed in the January editions of Index Medicus* and *Abridged Index Medicus*, and will also be sent with the next issue of the *NLM News*.)

● **Bibliography of the History of Medicine**. Number 14, 1978, is now available from the Superintendent of Documents (U.S.G.P.O., Washington, D.C. 20402) for $5.50 ($6.90 foreign). GPO Stock Number: 017-052-00207-4. This issue of the Bibliography contains approximately 4,200 citations dealing with the history of medicine and its related sciences, professions, and institutions. Number 14 covers primarily material published in 1978 and indexed prior to July 1979.

● **Medical Subject Headings, Tree Annotations**. The 1980 edition may now be ordered from the National Technical Information Service (Springfield, VA 22161). Designed for medical indexers and searchers, MeSH Tree Annotations has a two-fold purpose: first, to give a general statement on the approach an indexer or searcher should pursue to a given tree, and second, to provide advice on special features within that tree which could affect indexing or search strategy. When ordering from NTIS, include payment ($7.25 paper, $3 microfiche) and the order number: PB-80-104-706.

● **Bibliography of Bioethics**. Volume 5 in this series of annual bibliographies, partially supported by NLM grant, is now available for $44 from the Gale Research Co. (Book Tower, Detroit, MI 48226). Like previous volumes in the series, Volume 5 covers a variety of print and nonprint materials published on such topics as euthanasia, psychosurgery, human experimentation, abortion, the definition of death, and other bioethical topics. The Bibliography of Bioethics is edited by Dr. **LeRoy Walters**, Director of the Center for Bioethics, Kennedy Institute, Georgetown University.

Health Sciences Library Management Intern Program 1980-81

The Council on Library Resources and the National Library of Medicine have announced the third competitive internship program in health sciences library management. Applications are invited from qualified librarians with strong interests in administration. Successful candidates will spend the 1980-81 academic year working closely with the director and senior administrative staff of one of the country's academic health sciences libraries selected for its administrative excellence. Interns will receive an amount equal to their normal basic salary and benefit (up to $25,000) as well as allotments for travel and other educational programs. Up to $2,000 is provided for moving expenses. Application materials must be postmarked no later than March 15, 1980. The names of successful candidates will be announced in May 1980. For further information, write to: Health Sciences Library Management Intern Program, Council on Library Resources, Inc., 1 Dupont Circle, Suite 620, Washington, D.C. 20036.

Moratorium on New Online Centers

Because of severe strains on NLM's computer capacity, the Library is not presently accepting new institutional users in the NLM online network or providing existing Centers with additional codes. We are hopeful that this moratorium, established to ensure present users of effective and timely service, will be a short one and that additional computer capacity will soon be available.

NLM Hosts Chinese Visitors

On November 30 the National Library of Medicine received the Survey Delegation of the National Scientific and Technical Information Center of China (ISTIC). The delegation was headed by **Wang Wei**, Deputy Director of ISTIC. Their local escort was **Chi Wang** of the Library of Congress.

The seven-member delegation was made up of architects, engineers, and planners who are involved in preparations for a remarkable new ISTIC complex in Peking. They were especially interested in learning about the unique computer, communications, and audiovisual facilities contained within NLM's new Lister Hill Center building.

The visitors were welcomed and briefed by the NLM Director, **Martin M. Cummings**, M.D. and the Deputy Director for Research and Education, **Harold M. Schoolman**, M.D. The renovation and restoration of the present NLM building was reviewed by Kent Smith, Deputy Director. A discussion of architectural plans for the new Lister Hill Center building was led by **Mary Craigo**, Project Manager, Engineering and Design Branch, NIH.

New Publication Aids Specialists in Communicative Disorders

MEDLINE Users Manual and Thesaurus for Specialists in Communicative Disorders. 1979. Available without charge from Dr. Christy Ludlow, Communicative Disorders Program, National Institute of Neurological and Communicative Disorders and Stroke (NINCDS), NIH, 7550 Wisconsin Avenue, Room 1C-13, Bethesda, Maryland 20205.

This two-volume work was prepared by NIH's NINCDS to assist clinicians and researchers working in the fields of communicative science and disorders. It was designed to call MEDLINE to the attention of these professionals and to guide them in interacting with information specialists, in using the system themselves, and in handling the specialized MEDLINE vocabulary.